

**OPINION 2361 (Case 3561)*****Anchisaurus* Marsh, 1885 (Dinosauria, Sauropodomorpha): usage conserved by designation of a neotype for its type species *Megadactylus polyzelus* Hitchcock, 1865**

**Abstract.** Under the plenary power the Commission conserved the usage of the name *Anchisaurus* Marsh, 1885 (Lower Jurassic, Connecticut Valley, northeastern U.S.A.) that is based on *Megadactylus polyzelus* Hitchcock, 1865. The fragmentary and non-diagnostic holotype of *M. polyzelus* has been replaced with a diagnostic neotype, an almost complete skull and skeleton (YPM1883, holotype of *A. colurus* Marsh, 1891).

**Keywords.** Nomenclature; taxonomy; Dinosauria; Sauropodomorpha; *Anchisaurus*; *Ammosaurus*; *Megadactylus*; *M. polyzelus*; Lower Jurassic; dinosaurs; northeastern U.S.A.

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**Ruling**

- (1) Under the plenary power the International Commission on Zoological Nomenclature has set aside all previous type fixations for the name *Megadactylus polyzelus* Hitchcock, 1865 and designated specimen YPM1883 in the Peabody Museum of Natural History of Yale University as the neotype.
- (2) The name *Anchisaurus* Marsh, 1885 (gender: masculine), type species by monotypy *Megadactylus polyzelus* Hitchcock, 1865 is hereby placed on the Official List of Generic Names in Zoology.
- (3) The name *polyzelus* Hitchcock, 1856, as published in the binomen *Megadactylus polyzelus* and as defined by the neotype designated in (1) above (specific name of the type species of *Megadactylus* Hitchcock, 1865), is hereby placed on the Official List of Specific Names in Zoology.

**History of Case 3561**

An application to set aside all previous type fixations for the name *Megadactylus polyzelus* Hitchcock, 1865 and to designate as neotype the specimen YPM1883 in the Peabody Museum of Natural History of Yale University was received from Peter M. Galton (*College of Naturopathic Medicine, University of Bridgeport, Bridgeport, CT, U.S.A.*; *Peabody Museum of Natural History, Yale University, New Haven, CT, U.S.A.*) on 19 April 2011. After correspondence the Case was published in BZN **69**: 44–50 (March 2012). The title, abstract and keywords of the case were published on the Commission's website. Comments on this case were published in **69**: 141–142; 229231; **70**: 270. The Case was sent for vote on 3 September 2014 (VP 21).

**Decision of the Commission**

At the close of the voting period on 3 December 2014 the votes were as follows:

Affirmative votes – 17: Alonso-Zarazaga, Ballerio, Brothers, Bouchet, Fautin, Grygier, Halliday, Harvey, Krell, Kullander, Lamas, Pape, Rosenberg, Winston, Zhang, Zhou & Yanega.

Negative votes – 4: Bogutskaya, Kojima, Štys and van Tol  
Kottelat, Ng, Patterson & Pyle were on leave of absence.

Voting FOR, Brothers and Halliday noted that there was a mistake in Case 3561, paragraph 2, line 6. '*M. polydactylus*' should be '*M. polyzelus*'. Their votes assumed this was simply a typographical error. Also voting FOR, Bouchet said that he voted FOR the proposals despite the feeling that the stability of taxonomy, rather than the stability of nomenclature, is threatened by the incomplete and sometimes non-diagnostic condition of the name-bearing types involved. Voting AGAINST, Kojima said that under the current situation, as described in the proposal (i.e. the name *Anchisaurus* Marsh, 1885 is not threatened), he did not find any reasons to justify the necessity for the designation of the holotype of *Anchisaurus colurus* Marsh, 1891 as a neotype of *Megadactylus polyzelus* Hitchcock, 1865, the type species of *Anchisaurus* Marsh, 1885. Also voting AGAINST, Štys said that here the nomenclatural issues are at present irrevocably linked to unresolved taxonomical issues based on often overly fragmentary evidence. In his opinion, the ruling would be premature and possibly incompetent, and would favour one taxonomical opinion against another.

### Original references

The following are the original references to the names placed on the Official Lists by the ruling given in the present Opinion:

*Anchisaurus* Marsh, 1885, *American Journal of Science*, (3)29: 169.  
*polyzelus*, *Megadactylus*, Hitchcock, 1856, *A supplement to the ichnology of New England*.  
Wright and Potter, Boston, p. 187.